

NEWS.

THE ATTENTION of contributors is called to the new regulations concerning separates, which are announced in this number of the GAZETTE.

MR. B. E. FERNOW, Chief of the Division of Forestry, has been called to Hawaii to make a reconnoissance and to report concerning desirable forestry legislation.

MR. FRANCES RAMALEY, Instructor in Pharmaceutical Botany, in the University of Minnesota, has been appointed Assistant Professor of Botany in the University of Colorado, Boulder, Colo.

PROFESSOR G. F. ATKINSON has been experimenting upon plants with the Röntgen rays, and has published a preliminary report in *Science* (January 7). No conclusions are reached, as might be inferred from the following statement: "The longer my experiments continued the more mysterious the whole subject seemed."

THE proposed "Society for Plant Morphology and Physiology" was successfully organized at Ithaca at the recent meeting of the American Society of Naturalists and affiliated societies. A full account of this meeting, both as to the organization of the society and as to the papers read, will appear in the February number of the BOTANICAL GAZETTE.

THE COLLECTION of plants and literature made by the late Professor L. N. Johnson, of Ann Arbor, are offered for sale. Professor Johnson was especially interested in algæ, particularly the desmids, and had published a number of papers concerning them. The writer has inspected the list of books and papers and finds the alga literature well represented.

IT is reported in *Science* that ground was formally broken for the museum building of the New York Botanical Garden, on December 31. The contract for the construction and equipment of the museum building, power-house, and minor buildings, has been awarded for \$347,019. The plans for the great range of horticultural houses have been completed, and specifications for them have been printed. During the past season about 2900 species of plants have been obtained, together with large quantities of museum, library, and herbarium material.

THE PRESS REPORTS of the burning of Pardee Hall at Lafayette College stated that the entire collection of Dr. Thomas C. Porter had been destroyed.

1898]

A private letter from Dr. Porter informs us that the greater portion of the collection was saved, but with a good deal of damage from fire and water. An immense amount of labor will be necessary to prevent further loss and to bring order out of confusion. The separate collections from Pennsylvania were not seriously injured, so that Dr. Porter will not be hindered in the completion of his *Flora* of the state. The loss in the botanical library was considerable.

THE COMPLETE HERBARIUM of the late Mr. M. S. Bebb has been purchased by the Field Columbian Museum of Chicago, including his letters, manuscripts, sketches, drawings, etc. The material of Mr. Bebb's own collecting was always known for its perfect preservation, but aside from the large general collection the special value of this purchase is to be found in the unique collection of *Salix* material. The botanical department of the Museum, under the direction of Dr. C. F. Millspaugh, is to be commended for its enterprise in securing collections which will soon make it an important taxonomic center.

AT THE MEETING of the Minnesota Academy of Science, at Minneapolis, December 28-30, 1897, three botanical titles were presented. Professor J. C. Arthur read a paper on "The law of regression in plants," dealing with the tendency of plants to approximate toward mediocrity in size of seed and vegetative body. Professor MacDougal read a paper on the "Development of saprophytism," in which two general methods of variation toward the greater use of organic food were outlined, and another on the "Problems and province of plant-physiology," in which the present status of the subject in teaching and research was discussed.

WE note with regret that with the number (December 29) which completes its tenth volume, *Garden and Forest* suspends publication. The following statement is made: "For ten years the experiment has been tried of publishing a weekly journal devoted to horticulture and forestry, absolutely free from all trade influences, and as good as it has been possible for us to make it. This experiment, which has cost a large amount of time and money, has shown conclusively that there are not persons enough in the United States interested in the subjects which have been presented in the columns of *Garden and Forest* to make a journal of its class and character self-supporting. It is useless to expend more time and money on a publication which can not be made financially successful, and must, therefore, sooner or later cease to exist." This comes as a surprise to the many botanists who had come to regard this as one of their most valued journals.